

Attorney Docket No. 09792909-4865 (formerly SONY-P7449)

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In re Patent Application of:

Tomoyuki Asano

Application No. 08/865,403

Filed: May 29, 1997

For: CHARGING SYSTEM AND CHARGING
METHOD) Group Art Unit: 2164
)
)) Examiner: Nga B. Nguyen
)
)) I hereby certify that this correspondence is
) being facsimile transmitted to the United
) States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax
) No. (703) 872-9326 on November 8, 2004.
)) *Antionietta Musto*
) Antonietta MustoCommissioner for Patents and Trademarks
c/o Technology Center 3600
Washington, DC 20231**RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF DEFECTIVE APPEAL BRIEF**

Sir:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy extended during a telephone conference on November 2, 2004. During the telephone conference, Examiner reset the mailing date for the Notice of Defective Appeal Brief to November 2, 2004, since Applicant did not receive a copy of the Notice of Defective Appeal Brief as expected in August 2004.

In response to the Notice of Defective Appeal Brief, Applicant respectfully resubmits herewith a revised Appendix, i.e., replacement pages 8-13 to Appellant's Brief on Appeal. Applicant originally filed the attached corrected appendix with the Status Inquiry filed on November 14, 2003.

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 19-3140. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 8, 2004

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IX. APPENDIX

9. A method for providing a service to a user, comprising the steps of:
receiving a service request requesting desired service for the user from a service provider
and a digital signature generated based on said service request from a user terminal;
providing the service to the user terminal according to said service request;
requesting a charge collection from an accounting terminal based on said service request;
and
providing said service request and said digital signature to said accounting terminal when
a disclosure request of service requests and digital signatures is received.

17. The method according to claim 9, wherein said digital signature is generated only
by said user.

18. The method according to claim 9, wherein
said service provider verifies said digital signature received from said user terminal, and
said service provider provides the service to the user if said digital signature is valid.

19. The method according to claim 9, wherein
said service provider verifies said digital signature received from said user terminal, and
said service provider rejects the service request from the user terminal if the user falls behind in
his payment.

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20. The method according to claim 9, wherein
said service request from the user terminal includes a user name, bank account
information, a name of service provider, a name of the service to be provided, date and time.
21. The method according to claim 9, wherein
said charge collection request to said accounting terminal includes a user name, a bank
account information and amount of fee.
22. The method according to claim 9, wherein
said charge collection request to said accounting terminal includes said service request
and said digital signature received from the user terminal.
23. The method according to claim 9, wherein
said disclosure requests of said service requests and digital signatures is received from
the user.
24. The method according to claim 9, wherein
said service provider charges a fee to the user based on a time period said service is
provided to the user.
25. The method according to claim 9, wherein
said service provider charges a fee to the user based on contents provided to the user.

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37. A system for providing a service to a user, comprising:

means for receiving a service request requesting desired service for the user from a service provider and a digital signature generated based on said service request from a user terminal;

means for providing the service to the user terminal according to said service request;

means for requesting a charge collection from an accounting terminal based on said service request; and

means for providing said service request and said digital signature to said accounting terminal when a disclosure request of service requests and digital signatures is received.

38. The system according to claim 37, wherein said digital signature is generated only by said user.

39. The system according to claim 37, wherein
said service provider verifies said digital signature received from said user terminal, and
said service provider provides the service to the user if said digital signature is valid.

40. The system according to claim 37, wherein
said service provider verifies said digital signature received from said user terminal, and
said service provider rejects the service request from the user terminal if the user falls behind in
his payment.

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41. The system according to claim 37, wherein
said service request from the user terminal includes a user name, bank account
information, a name of service provider, a name of the service to be provided, date and time.
42. The system according to claim 37, wherein
said charge collection request to said accounting terminal includes a user name, a bank
account information and amount of fee.
43. The system according to claim 37, wherein
said charge collection request to said accounting terminal includes said service request
and said digital signature received from the user terminal.
44. The system according to claim 37, wherein
said disclosure requests of said service requests and digital signatures is received from
the user.
45. The system according to claim 37, wherein
said service provider charges a fee to the user based on a time period said service is
provided to the user.
46. The system according to claim 37, wherein
said service provider charges a fee to the user based on contents provided to the users.

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53. A system for providing a service to a user, comprising:
a service provider for receiving from a user terminal a service request requesting desired service for the user and a digital signature generated based on said service request, wherein the service provider
provides the service to the user terminal according to said service request,
requests a charge collection from an accounting terminal based on said service request,
and
provides said service request and said digital signature to said accounting terminal when a disclosure request of service requests and digital signatures is received.
54. The system according to claim 53, wherein said digital signature is generated only by said user.
55. The system according to claim 53, wherein
said service provider verifies said digital signature received from said user terminal, and
said service provider provides the service to the user if said digital signature is valid.
56. The system according to claim 53, wherein
said service provider verifies said digital signature received from said user terminal, and
said service provider rejects the service request from the user terminal if the user falls behind in his payment.

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57. The system according to claim 53, wherein
said service request from the user terminal includes a user name, bank account
information, a name of service provider, a name of the service to be provided, date and time.

58. The system according to claim 53, wherein
said charge collection request to said accounting terminal includes a user name, a bank
account information and amount of fee.

59. The system according to claim 53, wherein
said charge collection request to said accounting terminal includes said service request
and said digital signature received from the user terminal.

60. The system according to claim 53, wherein
said disclosure requests of said service requests and digital signatures is received from
the user.

61. The system according to claim 53, wherein
said service provider charges a fee to the user based on a time period said service is
provided to the user.

62. The system according to claim 53, wherein
said service provider charges a fee to the user based on contents provided to the user.